

SITUATION REPORT NO. 24
INCIDENT NO. 2001 - 005
DATE: June 21, 2001 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The current elevation of Devils Lake at Creel Bay is 1447.90 ft. Because of above normal precipitation for the month of June, Devils Lake has risen approximately 0.16 ft since its initial peak of 1447.74 ft on May 20. Since June 1, the Devils Lake Basin has received approximately 4-5 inches of precipitation. The monthly average for the entire month of June is 3.4 inches. The USGS gauging stations throughout the basin are reporting above normal flows between 100-200 cubic feet per second (cfs) for each coulee.

There is approximately 30 cfs flowing from Devils Lake to Stump Lake through the Jerusalem Channel. The current elevation of Stump Lake is 1411.79 ft. The lake level has now risen approximately .50 ft, since its initial peak of 1411.29 ft, on May 21. The increase is due to inflows from Devils Lake and local runoff from heavy rains. The peak elevation for Devils Lake and Stump Lake this year will depend upon the weather and the amount of precipitation the basin receives over the next few weeks.

Heavy rain, high winds, and isolated hail in Sargent County caused some damage to crops and destroyed two farm equipment storage sheds. The magnitude of wind velocity was strong enough to move a tractor in one of the storage sheds approximately one foot. Within the county, Cogswell experienced flooding near the city's lift station and high winds in the communities of Havana and Rutland caused extensive tree damage.

On June 12, strong winds west of Napoleon, in Logan County, damaged a quonset and destroyed two grain bins, two barns, and a double garage.

A severe thunderstorm producing rain, hail and tornadoes passed through central and eastern Benson County on Wednesday afternoon, June 20. A tornado touched down between Minnewaukan and Oberon; several were confirmed in the Fort Totten and Tokio areas. Currently, fifty individuals have reported damage resulting from high water tables and increased precipitation. Devils Lake now threatens access to two homes located near St. Michael.

Hail and heavy rain occurred Wednesday afternoon in southern and central Nelson County in areas surrounding the cities of McVile, Tolna, and Pekin.

Wednesday afternoon on June 20, Traill County encountered heavy rain, hail, and a combination of funnel clouds and tornadoes. A buildup of four to six inches of hail occurred along Interstate 29 south of Buxton to the Mayville exit.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation released the following information summarizing road closures, reduced traffic speed areas, and alternate travel routes. More detailed road and travel information is available at this continually updated website. <http://www.state.nd.us/dot/road.html>

Devils Lake District: Highway Closures

- **US 281** - The highway, from mile points 171-172, located three miles south of Junction US 2, will remain closed until the construction project is finished. Detour routes include US 2, ND 19, and ND 30.
- **ND 19** - This closure is located nine miles east of Junction 281 and is expected to last through the entire construction season. Detour routes will be clearly marked.
- **ND 20** – The road, from mile points 96-98, will remain closed until project completion. Alternate routes include BIA 6, BIA 15, BIA 20, and BIA 21.

Bismarck District: Water on Roadways but Traffic Allowed

- **ND 3** - At mile point 123, ten miles north of Tuttle, a temporary gravel grade raise will reduce traffic speeds to **15 mph**.
- **ND 200** – From mile points 230-231, three miles east of McClusky, a temporary gravel grade raise will reduce traffic speed to **15 mph**.

Devils Lake District: Water on Roadways but Traffic Allowed

- **ND 200** - West of Chaseley at mile point 257, flooding has reduced traffic to one lane and the speed limit is posted for **25 mph**.
- **ND 57** - From Fort Totten to Junction 20, water and debris on the highway has reduced traffic speeds.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** Weather spotters from the Trail County communities of Hatton, Reynolds, Mayville, Portland, and Hillsboro were called upon to provide updates concerning storm conditions.

6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** State and FEMA personnel are currently holding a series of briefings to explain details of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). On Wednesday, June 20, a meeting was conducted at Valley City in the Barnes County Court House. A second meeting was held on Thursday, June 21, at Grafton in the Marketplace on Eighth Street. The final applicant briefing will occur at 9:00 a.m. Friday, June 22, at Harvey in the Presentation Center located on the south side of St. Aloisius Medical Center.

At this time, one hundred seventy-three requests for Public Assistance have been approved. One hundred seventeen Public Assistance Kickoff Meetings have

been held with applicant representatives to discuss potential damage on a site by site basis.

Earlier this week, State and FEMA representatives completed a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) in Sargent County. Beginning Monday, June 25, state and federal officials will conduct a PDA in Logan County.

The North Dakota Division of Emergency Management in conjunction with federal and other state agencies and the Volunteer Agencies Active in Disaster (VOAD) have identified potential assistance available to individuals and families suffering loss due to spring storms and flooding conditions. A resource directory providing pertinent telephone numbers, and a brief description of the various types of possible assistance is being prepared by State Emergency Management staff. Within two weeks, directories will be disseminated to individuals who have contacted county or tribal emergency managers regarding their damages.

In Traill County, snowplows were called Wednesday afternoon to clear the five to six inch accumulation of hail on Interstate 29 south of Buxton to the Mayville exit.

An Emergency Declaration has been issued by Sargent County officials due to damage of public infrastructure, homes, and farmland caused by recent rain, wind, and hail.

Officials from the City of Cogswell, located in Sargent County, have issued an Emergency Disaster Declaration due to recent flooding in the northeast section of the community.

Due to recent storms, the Napoleon City Council issued an Emergency Declaration for the Logan County community.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director